

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04593 201428Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4024

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4593

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF US

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S "PEACE PROPOSAL"

REF: STATE 168595

1. I GOT ARABIC TRANSLATION OF YOUR MESSAGE INTO ASSAD'S HANDS THIS MORNING VIA HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY MINUTES BEFORE A TWO AND ONE-HALF HOUR INTERVIEW HE THEN PROCEEDED TO GIVE TO NEWSWEEK SENIOR EDITOR ARNAUD DEBORCHGRAVE. DEBORCHGRAVE, DRAWING ON ISRAELI PRESS LEAKS OF BEGIN'S ALLEGED "PEACE PROPOSAL," OPENED INTERVIEW SEEKING ASSAD'S REACTION.

2. SPEAKING FOR THE RECORD, ASSAD SAID "ANY SUCH PEACE PROPOSAL WAS DEFINITELY REJECTED." PRESIDENT THEN LAPSED INTO SILENCE. DEBORCHGRAVE ASKED IF BEGIN'S REPORTED IDEAS CONTAINED POSSIBLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. ASSAD REPLIED WHAT HAD BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO BEGIN DID NOT CONSTITUTE A PEACE PLAN. AETHER IT WAS A COLLECTION OF IDEAS AIMED AT LEGALIZING ISRAEL'S REMAINING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IT WAS A "NON-STARTER AND NOT A BASIS FOR TALKS OR NEGOTIATIONS, A FACT BEGIN KNEW IN MAKING HIS PRESENTATION."

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3. ACCORDING DEBORCHGRAVE, ASSAD ALSO DISMISSED IDEAS OF ROTATING CHAIRMAN OR PROXIMITY TALKS, SAYING SINCE THE PROBLEMS WERE NOT SEPARATE, THERE THEREFORE WAS NO NEED FOR SEPARATE COMMITTEES. PRESIDENT STATED ONLY OPTION HE SAW WAS TO RECONVENE GENEVA TO DISCUSS "ELEMENTS OF PEACE."

4. FOREGOING JUST GIVEN ME BY DEBORCHGRAVE IN QUICK

DEBRIEFING OF HIS INTERVIEW OF ASSAD, WHICH TOGETHER WITH INTERVIEW HE EXPECTS HAVE WITH KING HUSSEIN TONIGHT AT AMMAN OR TOMORROW AT AQABA WILL CONSTITUTE HIS NEWSWEEK STORY NEXT WEEK. DEBORCHGRAVE SAID HE IS SCHEDULED INTERVIEW SADAT IN ALEXANDRIA SUNDAY EVENING, TOO LATE TO APPEAR IN NEXT NEWSWEEK.

5. COMMENT:

DEBORCHGRAVE WILL TELEX INTERVIEW TEXT FROM AMMAN TO DAMASCUS TOMORROW FOR FINAL CLEARANCE WITH PRESIDENCY. KNOWING DEBORCHGRAVE, STRONGLY DOUBT HE WOULD BE AMENABLE TO KILLING STORY. CAN ONLY HOPE OUR INTERVENTION WILL SERVE LIMIT FURTHER SYRIAN REACTION TO VIEWS THUS FAR ONLY ATTRIBUTED TO BEGIN. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON HOW ISRAELI PRIMIN HANDLES HIS PRESS CONFERENCE LATER TODAY.

6. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT PASS AMMAN, CAIRO, JIDDA, BEIRUT TEL AVIV AND WHITE HOUSE.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PEACE PLANS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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